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SEATBELT CHECKPOINT NETS 151 CHARGES

WAKE FOREST, NC – May 22, 2006 – The Wake Forest Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit conducted its first official roadside seatbelt checkpoint on May 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The checkpoint was set up in the eastbound lane of Front Street at Roosevelt Avenue.

Altogether, the checkpoint netted 151 charges, of which 117 were seatbelt violations. The remaining results were as follows:

- 3 citations issued for failure to restrain child in safety restraint
- 8 citations issued for failure to stop at a stoplight
- 5 citations issued for operating a vehicle without a license
- 2 citations issued for failing to carry a driver's license while operating a vehicle
- 5 citations issued for registration violations
- 4 citations issued for failure to change address
- 4 citations issued for inspections
- 1 citation issued for no insurance
- 1 citation issued for carrying an open container of alcohol
- 1 citation issued for passing on the right

The seatbelt checkpoint was part of a nationwide campaign, held May 8 through May 21, called "Buckle Up in Your Truck." Jointly sponsored by the Governor's Highway Safety Program and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the campaign is designed to convince pickup occupants to protect themselves from traffic injuries and death by wearing their safety belts regularly. Pickup drivers often say they feel safer because their trucks are bigger, stronger, and sit up higher than most cars on the road. But a substantial number of all deaths in pickups are in rollover crashes.

According to the Governor's Highway Safety Program website, studies conducted for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicate occupants in pickup trucks consistently have lower safety belt usage rates than occupants in automobiles, vans and sport utility vehicles.

Wake Forest Police Department officials say future checkpoints are planned, including several in the coming months that will target drivers under the influence of alcohol.

For more information about the Wake Forest Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit, contact Lt. Darren Abbacchi at (919) 554-6163.

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